

applied to Mr. Poey who seems willing to Comply with requisition. which I shall make use of as you desire should I not Sell the Vessell ["Regulator"]. which I have not much hopes of — The Vessell I write [*i.e.* send] this by laying off and on for water I can say no more at present. but

am Sir

Y^r. Obed^t Serv^t.

J W G Prescott

Cap^t. Barney¹⁷⁶ saild from here the 11th. in a french frigate of 46 Guns and two others of smaller Size under his Command in quest of the English Convoy which I parted with on the 12th. Off Cape Antonio¹⁷⁷ consistg of 160 Sail. and very Strongly Convey^d

Addressed: John Gray Blount Esq^r.
Washington
North Carolina

*John Gray Blount to Joseph Ross*¹⁷⁸

Washington Aug^t. 25th 1796

Mr. Joseph Ross

Sir¹⁷⁹

Some time past I contracted with a Mr. Robert Smithey of the City of Washington to deliver a quantity of Lumber which I have caused to be delivered to a considerable amount and he on his part was [2] to have delivered Mr. Van Noordens Vessell 1000 bus Corn for 1000 Dollars in part pay of the Shingles but failed so to do by which I am subjected to pay Mr. Van Noorden here 1200 Dollars[,] what it would have sold for at this place

This Mr. Smithey is a young man just seting out in business who I would not wish to injure but it may be best to push him to make payment and therefore I wrote him I should draw for the am^t. he was to have paid Mr. Van Noorden

¹⁷⁶ Joshua Barney (1759-1818), the American naval hero of the Revolution who later (1796-1802) served in the French navy as captain and commodore against the British. *The Encyclopedia Americana* (New York: Americana Corporation, 30 volumes, 1960), III, 268-269.

¹⁷⁷ Cape San Antonio, on the western tip of Cuba.

¹⁷⁸ A Tarboro merchant who went north with Schenck on Blount business. Keith, *Blount Papers*, II, 219; John Wallace to Blount, December 2, 1797, in this volume.

¹⁷⁹ From the Letter Book.